

Claim 6, line 6, delete "for";

line 8, delete "for";

line 10, change "permitting" to --configured to permit--;

Claim 8, line 2, change "permits" to --is configured to permit--;

(Amended)

11. The punch and die assembly according to claim 6,

further comprising:

a' a compression spring [for] engaging the punch and either the first housing or second housing, thereby biasing the punch [in] to a retracted position.

Remarks:

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application, claims 12-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 11 to clarify the present invention.

Applicant confirms the election of Group I, claims 1-11.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Applicant submits herewith a sheet of proposed drawing corrections. In the proposed drawing changes, Applicant proposes to simply add a mark to the dies as described in the specification. Applicant submits that the drawings as so amended

illustrate every feature of the invention specified in the claims and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Applicant has overcome the Examiner's objection to the abstract by amending the abstract as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure.

Applicant has overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification by amending the specification along the lines suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner states that it is not clear how the punch operates as depicted in Fig. 2 or in the upper die is partially inserted into the die receiving passage of the lower housing. Fig. 2 is intended to illustrate an embodiment of the present invention prior to use of the device for punching holes in a substrate. To punch holes in a substrate, the dies would be arranged such that material could be inserted between the upper and lower housings and the upper and lower dies. One skilled in the art would understand how to arranged the dies such that material could be punched by the apparatus. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the specification does describe the

present invention in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Where the Examiner has suggested amendments to the claims, Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

With respect to claim 1 in the recitation of "permitting at least one of the first die and a second die to rotate therein", Applicant submits that this is not vague and indefinite. Along these lines, the dies may simply be inserted by hand into the die receiving apertures and rotated by hand until they are aligned. Notwithstanding this, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the passage is configured to permit the die to rotate therein.

With respect to the recitation that the dies "may be aligned to be concentric within about 5 millionths of an inch", this is intended to indicate that an axis of each die parallel to the die and passing through the center of each die are aligned such that an axis of each of these dies is within 5 millionths of an inch of the other of the dies. Such alignment may take place through manual and visual inspection or with any number of optical or

mechanical detection systems that are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the Examiner deems necessary any further cooperation to complete the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to deposit account no. 22-0185.

Date:

6-15-99

Respectfully submitted,



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